WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for treating a body lumen of a patient, the method comprising placing at least two magnetic or magnetizable devices within a wall of the body lumen at a preselected location, wherein the magnetic devices are attracted to one another and wherein the attraction between the magnetic devices at least partially constricts the lumen.

2. A method as in claim 1, wherein placing the magnetic devices further comprises:

inserting an endoscope having a delivery device into the body lumen;

advancing the endoscope to position the delivery device near the preselected location; and

implanting, with the delivery device the at least two magnetic or magnetizable devices into the wall of the body lumen.

3. A method as in claim 2, wherein the at least two devices are not magnetized when implanted into the wall of the patient's esophagus, the method further comprising:

positioning a magnetizing device at a location near the implanted at least two devices; and

magnetizing the at least one of the two devices.

4. A method as in claim 3, further comprising:

positioning a pressure sensing device at a location near the implanted at least two magnets;

sensing a pressure within the body lumen at the location; and

adjusting the magnetic power of at least one of the two devices, based on the sensed pressure.

5. A method as in claim 4, wherein sensing is performed using a pressure sensor on the delivery device or endoscope.

6. A method as in claim 4 or 5, further comprising:

positioning a magnet adjustment device at a location near the implanted at least two magnets; and

adjusting the magnetic power of the at least two magnets, based on the sensed pressure within the esophagus.

7. A method as in claim 6, wherein adjusting is performed with an electromagnet on the delivery device or the endoscope.

8. A method as in claim 1, wherein the at least two magnetic devices comprise two magnets placed in opposing sides of the patient's esophagus.

9. A method as in claim 1, wherein the at least two magnetic devices comprise at least four magnets contained within a retaining ring, wherein the retaining ring is configured for placement within the wall of the esophagus and the at least four magnets attract one another in a radial pattern to constrict the retaining ring.

10. A method as in claim 1, wherein the at least one of the two magnetic devices comprises magnetic particles.

11. A device for treating a body lumen of a patient, the device comprising a set of two or more magnets or magnetizable components for placement in the wall of the lumen, wherein the devices are preferably ferrous particles coated with a biocompatible coating such as pyrolytic carbon.

12. A device for treating a sphincter in a body lumen of a patient, the device comprising:

an elongate catheter having a proximal end and a distal end; and

a magnetic delivery device disposed at the distal end of the elongate catheter for placing at least two magnetic members within the wall of the lumen.

13. A device as in claim 12, wherein the magnetic delivery device comprises:

an elongate tube disposed along the length of the catheter, the tube having a proximal end and a distal end; and

at least one needle is located at the distal end of the tube for injecting magnetic particles into the wall of the lumen.

14. A device for magnetizing magnetizable components or particles disposed in the wall of a body lumen, said device comprising:

a catheter adapted to be introduced to the body lumen; and

a permanent or electromagnet disposed on the device for exposing the magnetizable components or particles to a magnetic field.

15. A device as in claim 14, further comprising means for testing pressure in the body lumen before, during, or after magnetization of the components or particles.

16. A device for tracking a body lumen comprising magnets or magnetizable components disposed in a retaining ring adapted to position the components in the wall of the body lumen so that the components will exert a closing force on the lumen when the retaining ring is implanted about the lumen.